

## **State Loan Repayment Program of Kansas Program Description**

**Size of the Program** The goal will be to assist ten communities by supporting loan repayment for 10 to 13 primary health care providers. Eligible professions include primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, mental health counselors, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.

**Financial Approach** Local communities will be required to provide \$1.00 in loan repayment support for each \$1.00 dollar from the federal grant funds. Site placement priority will be given to rural and frontier areas. No more than \$35,000 per year may be awarded for a 2-year loan repayment agreement with an approved site. The maximum award shall be \$105,000 for three years of obligated service in an approved site for physician or dentist loan repayment. The maximum for non-physicians will be set at \$15,000 per year or \$45,000 for three years of obligated service. Loan payments will be made at the completion of each year of service. No payments will be made for less than one year of service.

PLEASE NOTE: Public Law 108-357 makes all SLRP funds exempt from gross income and employment taxes. This law also excludes these funds from being taken into account as wages in determining benefits under the Social Security Act.

**Term of Service** In order to receive funds under the State Loan Repayment Program of Kansas, a health professional must contract to practice in the designated area for a minimum of 2 years. The practice site must be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area. Placements may also be made to public and private non-profit clinical sites providing primary health services in federally designated HPSAs for underserved populations.

**Selection Criteria for Eligible Sites** A **Site Application Form**, available from the Office of Local and Rural Health (785)296-1200, will be utilized to determine site eligibility and to rank eligible sites if applications exceed available funds. A site selection committee will review applications and make the final selections. Site application will include information allowing examination of the following community characteristics:

1. Ratio of practitioners to population and current federal shortage designation
2. Population density of a county: number of persons per square mile
3. Significant high-need factors, such as: infant mortality rate, poverty levels, Medicaid access problems, population over 65, language or cultural barriers

4. Degree of community support for placement of the health professional
5. Written plan to include access to care for any area resident regardless of ability to pay and use of sliding-scale discounts for low income or uninsured clients
6. Written assurance that Medicare assignment will be honored and Medicaid patients served

**Selection Criteria for Eligible Applicants** Physicians must be licensed in one of the state-defined, primary care specialties, including family practice, osteopathic general practice, obstetrics-gynecology, internal medicine and pediatrics. Dentists and other health care providers must have an active Kansas license for their health profession.

**Provider Applications** for the State Loan Repayment Program are also available by contacting the Office of Local and Rural Health at 785-296-1200. Points will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to meet the following requirements:

1. Kansas resident
2. United States citizenship
3. Contract for full-time (40 hours per week) clinical practice
4. Completion of the appropriate level of education. Board certified or eligible for board certification if a physician
5. Fees will be charged for professional services at the usual and customary prevailing rates for the area, except that if a person is unable to pay based upon income, charges may be at reduced rates or free care may be provided
6. Acceptance of Medicare assignment
7. Acceptance of Medicaid patients in practice
8. Availability to provide care in an approved site for a minimum of two years full-time service as outlined in the loan repayment contract
9. Demonstration of commitment to serve in qualified underserved areas, especially rural areas or in sites serving medically underserved populations

For more information:

Barbara Huske, Workforce Analyst  
KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340      785 296-2742 (voice)  
Topeka KS 66612-1365      785 296-1231 (fax)  
E-mail: [bhuske@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:bhuske@kdhe.state.ks.us)